The invention relates to a method for the transmission of confidential facsimile messages from and to a personal computer, one or more personal computers being assigned in each case to one facsimile transceiver via in each case one facsimile/PC interface, a first memory for accommodating a complete facsimile message being assigned to each facsimile transceiver and to each personal computer, and, after a transmission request from the personal computer, a facsimile message stored in the first memory of the respective facsimile transceiver being transmitted to the personal computer via the interface.

It is generally known, in a network of facsimile transceivers, to assign to the individual apparatuses a memory capability, which is suitable for storing a complete facsimile message. It is also generally known to assign to a facsimile transceiver station one or more personal computers (PC), which are suitable for calling up facsimile messages from a previously mentioned facsimile transceiver and storing this message, and which are also suitable for inputting facsimile messages into the facsimile transceiver for the purpose of later transmission via the facsimile network.

It is the object to find a method which ensures that a connected PC can call up from a facsimile transceiver only a message which is also intended for it.

This is achieved by the fact that a second memory, containing its own identifier and identifiers of addressees, is assigned to each personal computer, the personal computer adding the identifiers to the message or to a transmission request during transmission of a facsimile message to the locally dedicated facsimile transceiver, that there is provided in the facsimile transceiver a third memory which stores incoming identifiers, and that there is furthermore provided in the facsimile transceiver a comparator which passes on a facsimile message stored in the first memory of the facsimile transceiver to a personal computer connected thereto or for a remote personal computer, via an

appropriate control section, only when the identifier of the personal computer, emitted when the latter makes a transmission request, corresponds to the identifier, contained in the facsimile message, of the addressee.

The advantage resulting from this is that the transmitting subscriber can determine the desired receiver and that only the desired addressee can remove the message from the memory of the facsimile transceiver assigned to it or of a remote facsimile transceiver.

The method according to the invention is explained in more detail using a figure.

The figure indicates a facsimile network (telephone network) FN having the facsimile transceivers FSE1 to FSEy and the personal computers PC1 to PCy. In addition, there are assigned to the facsimile transceivers comparators VE1 to VEy and memories SPK1 to SPKy for accommodating identifiers of the transmitters of incoming messages. There are assigned to the personal computers memories SPCK1 to SPCKy for their own identifier and identifiers of addressees.

The starting point is that a facsimile network is implemented, for example, via a telephone network. Facsimile transceivers are provided (FSE1-FSEy) [sic] as facsimile apparatuses, to which transceivers one or more personal computers (PCs) are assigned at least partially via a PC/fax link-up. Each fax apparatus has a memory (first memory), which is large enough to be able to store a complete facsimile message which either arrives via a remote link or is forwarded to the memory by an assigned PC for the purpose of transmission. All the PCs have a corresponding (first) memory, in which the facsimile messages called up from the facsimile device for the purpose of further processing are stored or in which facsimile messages to be created for passing on are stored.

The intention, then, is to ensure that specific messages, which are created on a PC, are accessible, for example, only to a specific PC at a remote facsimile station. For this purpose, each PC has a second memory

(SPCK1-SPCKy), in which there is stored its own identifier (password), assigned only to it, and a respective identifier for each PC, by means of which memory the said PC is intended to have the capability of confidential correspondence.

Furthermore, there is assigned to each facsimile apparatus (FSE1-FSEy) a third memory (SPK1-SPKy), in which there is stored the identifier (passwords) assigned to a stored facsimile message and in which there is likewise stored the identifier of a PC initiating call-up of the message. Moreover, each facsimile apparatus (FSE1-FSEy), equipped with one or more PCs, contains a comparator (VE1-VEy).

If, for example, a facsimile message is created by a personal computer PC1, connected to the facsimile apparatus FSE1, for the personal computer PC [sic], assigned to the facsimile apparatus FSEy, then this message is transmitted after completion, for the purpose of further transmission, to the first memory of the facsimile apparatus FSE1. In this case, at a location which can be determined, there are added, from the second memory SPCK1, to the facsimile message both the identifier of PC1 and the identifier of the addressee PCy. These identifiers can be stored in a third memory SPK1 of the facsimile apparatus FSE1. In the present case, therefore, the identifiers of PC1 and PCy are stored.

If the facsimile apparatus FSE1 identifies a transmission request arriving via the network (FN), then it will initially check, by means of a corresponding device, whether an identifier is assigned to this request. If this is not the case, then transmission does not take place in our example.

If an identifier is present, then this is compared with the addressee identifier (in this case of PCy), assigned to the facsimile message, in a comparator (VE1) and transmission takes place only if they correspond. It is a similar procedure when an incoming facsimile message is already stored in the first memory of the facsimile apparatus, a plurality of PCs being

assigned to the facsimile apparatus.

If the facsimile message contains an addressee identifier, then the only transmission request which is attended to is that of the PC to whose transmission request the correct identifier is automatically added.

By means of the above-depicted method according to the invention, confidential transmission can therefore be made possible in a simple way.

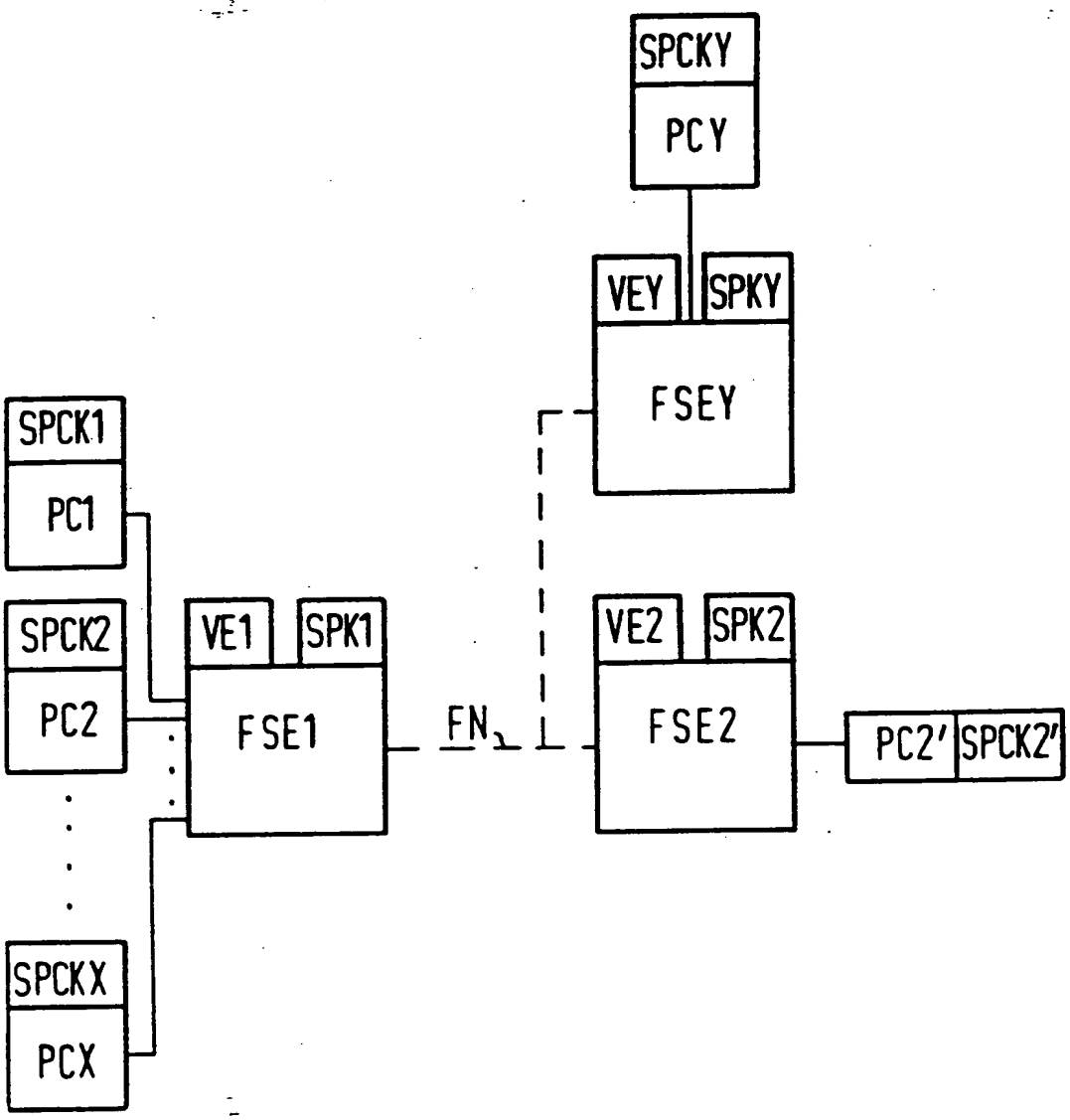
Of course, the above method is not restricted only to a facsimile network which has only facsimile transceivers. Purely transmitting apparatuses or purely receiving apparatuses can also be used. In the transmitting apparatus, the third memory (SPK1-SPKy) and the comparator (VTE1-VTEy) are then needed only to check transmission requests arriving via the network, whereas, in the purely receiving apparatuses, the said devices are used to check the authorization of the connected PCs.

Patent Claims

1. Method for the transmission of confidential facsimile messages from and to a personal computer, one or more personal computers being assigned in each case to one facsimile transceiver via in each case one facsimile/PC interface, a first memory for accommodating a complete facsimile message being assigned to each facsimile transceiver and to each personal computer, and, after a transmission request from the personal computer, a facsimile message stored in the first memory of the respective facsimile transceiver being transmitted to the personal computer via the interface, characterized in that a second memory (SPCK1-SPCKy), containing its own identifier and identifiers of addressees, is assigned to each personal computer (PC1-PC4), the personal computer adding the identifiers to the message or to a transmission request during transmission of a facsimile message to the locally dedicated facsimile transceiver (FSE1-FSEy), in that there is provided in the facsimile transceiver (FSE1-FSEy) a third memory (SPK1-SPKy) which stores incoming identifiers, and in that there is furthermore provided in the facsimile transceiver (FSE1-FSEy) a comparator (VE1-VEy) which passes on a facsimile message stored in the first memory of the facsimile transceiver (FSE1-FSEy) to a personal computer (PC1-PC4) connected thereto or for a remote personal computer (PC1-PC4), via an appropriate control section, only when the identifier of the personal computer, emitted when the latter makes a transmission request, corresponds to the identifier, contained in the facsimile message, of the addressee.

2. Method according to Patent Claim 1, characterized in that, in a network having facsimile transceivers (FSE1-FSE2), a device is assigned to the individual apparatuses, with the aid of which device there can be added to each outgoing facsimile message, in addition to its own identifier, an identifier of the desired addressee which causes, at the receiver, the comparator (VE1-VEy) of the receiver to pass on the message or block

the passing on of the message.


SPCKY
PCY
VEY
SPKY
FSEY
SPCK1
PC1
SPCK2
PC2
VE1
SPK1
FSE1
FN
VE2
SPK2
FSE2
PC2'
SPCK2'
SPCKX
PCX